



On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
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March 23, 2001  
Vol. 31, No. 11

## Gate House transformed into art studio

Mary Thornley, Gallaudet's Powrie V. Doctor Chair for Deaf Studies and artist-in-residence, exhibited "New Works in Oil" on February 21 in the newly renovated campus Gate House. The Gate House has become a studio where an artist can work, regardless of medium.

According to Daniel Kirby, director of Construction Services, the building renovation began last September. The interior of the building was gutted to make a large open studio space on each floor. Previously, there had been two small rooms on each floor with a narrow, twisting staircase separating them. The new stair-

case was moved to create an open feel to the building. Additional structural modifications were made for safety, accessibility, and design reasons.

"How about that the beautiful 'slate' roof?," added Kirby. "Well, guess what? It's not slate. It's a new product made from recycled rubber materials and formed to look just like slate for about half the cost of regular slate."

Thornley, who has a MFA in painting, is known for her work related to deaf people, deaf life, the deaf experience, and deaf culture. Her exhibition includes portraits and ceramic sculptures

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Faculty members discuss their initial efforts at establishing an ability-based program within their disciplines. The ability-based methodology teaches that classroom learning gives students the skills needed for effectiveness in the world of work, family, and civic responsibilities. The panel discussion, entitled "Competency Based Education: A Gallaudet Beginning," was held in 'Ole Jim' on February 27 as part of the 2000 Distinguished Faculty Lecture. The panelists were, from left: Dr. Karen Kimmel, associate professor of English, Dr. Ann Davidson-Powell, chair of the Department of Biology and Distinguished Faculty member for 2000, Dr. John Christiansen, professor of sociology and co-recipient of the Distinguished Faculty award for 1998, Dr. Janet Pray, chair of the Department of Social Work and Distinguished Faculty member for 1993, and Eileen Matthews, faculty fellow in the Office of Planning, a faculty member in the English Department, and former chair of the Department of Technical Students, which offered the first full ability-based program in office systems.

## Education honor society inducts members, discusses diversity

The Gallaudet chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education, inducted 31 new student members at a February 26 ceremony in 'Ole Jim.' The new members are from the varied fields of psychology, education, administration, interpreting, and counseling.

The induction was led by faculty and student officers of the present Kappa Delta Pi board. The officers included: Robert Shaffer, president; Mala Kleinfeld, vice-president; Jenna Pittaway, treasurer; Cindy Dunn, secretary;

Crystal Groth, publicity; Dr. Patricia Hulsebosch, general member; and Dr. William Marshall and Dr. David Martin, co-counselors. Plans for the immediate future were discussed, including volunteer work in nearby elementary schools.

Following the induction ceremony, a panel chaired by Dr. Marquessa Brown, associate professor in the Department of Social Work, was convened on the topic, "Meeting the Needs of Diverse Students in Today's Schools"—a

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## 'History Through Deaf Eyes' exhibit



Gallaudet's "History Through Deaf Eyes" exhibit had its grand opening March 8 in the Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company building in Hartford, Conn. Over 130 people attended the opening, which was co-hosted by Gallaudet and the American School for the Deaf.



President Jordan and Dr. Jack Gannon, co-curator of the exhibit, admire bronze replicas of hands showing the manual alphabet. The original sculptures were carved decades ago by students at the Maryland School for the Deaf.



Pictured with the exhibit's project director, Jean Bergey (second from right), and co-curator Rosalyn Gannon (third from right), are staff from the American School for the Deaf and members of Hartford's deaf community.

## Baseball field to be named for William 'Dummy' Hoy

Gallaudet will dedicate its baseball field to deaf baseball legend William "Dummy" Hoy at an April 8 ceremony.

Hoy was deafened at age 2 and attended the Ohio School for the Deaf. He played professional baseball for several teams in the major leagues from 1888 to 1902, including the Cincinnati Reds, the Washington Senators, and the Chicago White Sox.

One of Hoy's biggest claims to fame is the credit he has received for inventing the hand signals used by umpires. He asked the umpires to raise their right arm to signify a strike and their left arm to signify a ball. Additional hand signals still used today in baseball and softball—like the signals for "out" and "safe"—can also be attributed to Hoy.

In 1961, at the age of 99, Hoy threw out the ceremonial first pitch to open the World Series between the Cincinnati Reds and the New York Yankees. Two

months later, he passed away.

The baseball field dedication ceremony at Gallaudet will begin with a breakfast and program, by invitation only, in the University's cafeteria from 9 to 11 a.m. Invited guests and speakers include Brooks Robinson, former Baltimore Orioles third baseman, Buck O'Neil, a member of the Veterans Committee, and Miriam Skaggs, a relative of Hoy.

After the breakfast, the guests will proceed to the baseball field where a plaque will be unveiled to commemorate the dedication of the William "Dummy" Hoy Baseball Field.

Everyone is welcome to attend the dedication ceremony and watch the double header the Gallaudet Bison will play against Lincoln University. Anyone who wishes to attend the dedication ceremony at the baseball field should arrive by noon. The baseball game will begin immediately after the ceremony. **G**



## Gate House

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using earmolds borrowed from other people.

"I prepared the portraits not necessarily because I 'like' doing portraits but because I feel it is important to have a portrait gallery or some collection of portraits of deaf people and others involved with them," said Thornley. "To my knowledge, such an exhibit has never occurred."

Because the work is ongoing and the display is still in place, anyone who missed the show can still stop in and see the artwork. Upcoming events for Thornley include a presentation in April to explain her ideas at length and

another exhibit in May at the Artists' Museum, 406 Seventh Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Future plans for the Gate House involve additional art exhibits. Some of these exhibits will be by students, while others will feature outside artists. The building will also serve as a gift shop to sell student artwork.

Once called the Gateway Lodge, the Gate House was used as a residence for the school watchman until 1927. Later it was used as a residence for faculty members and their families. Today's use of the Gate House allows Gallaudet to maintain the character of its older buildings while at the same time incorporating a focus on the visual arts. 

## Transportation Department takes high award in national driving 'Road-eo'

Those of us who gripe about the stress of commuting in Washington, D.C., area traffic should consider the daily task of school transportation drivers. These professionals have to jockey a 30-foot bus filled with 40 or so exuberant youngsters through the morning and evening rush hours. To assure that each trip begins and ends safely takes a cool head, and above all, unparalleled skills.

Gallaudet is fortunate to have drivers who have been ranked among the nation's best. Transportation Department drivers Jacqueline Campbell and Lawrence Curtis teamed up to take fourth place in the National Special Needs Team Safety Road-eo, held March 3 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Campbell and Curtis had to compete against teams from 22 other school districts. Their skills were tested in a full day of grueling exercises—some simulating a normal day on the job of picking up school students—and others that were atypical, like maneuvering a less-than-agile school bus through a course of traffic cones made even more tricky by speed

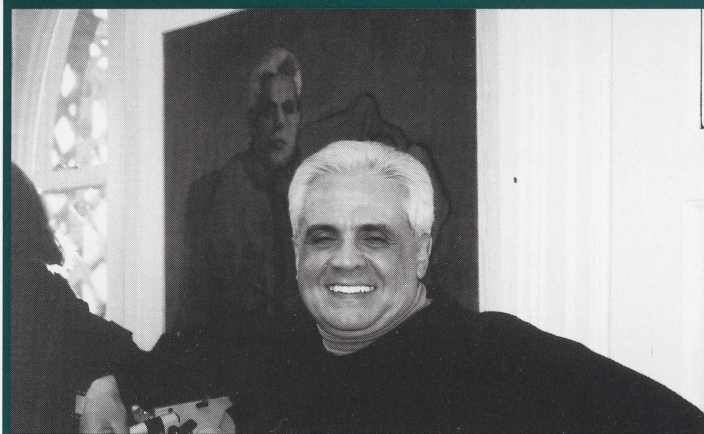
bumps, and backing the bus into tight areas.

What makes Gallaudet's victory even sweeter is that Campbell and Curtis excelled in events that are outside of their everyday routines. Darnese Nicholson, manager of Gallaudet's Transportation Department, explained that the Road-eo entrants are primarily school districts with large populations of special needs children, such as wheelchair users and those with medical conditions. And although all Gallaudet drivers are trained to transport people with disabilities, "We don't have a lot of those challenges here, which makes our win even more unique in that we excelled in areas that we don't deal with every day," she said.

A large degree of credit for the Gallaudet team's success goes to Transportation Department Supervisor Gary Wormley, a 22-year veteran of school bus driving, who helped train Campbell and Curtis throughout the year at a course set up at the Sixth Street parking lot. In addition to putting them through exercises to keep their driving skills sharp, Wormley led the team in safety drills such



Artist Mary J. Thornley painted portraits of Deaf Way II Chair Harvey Goodstein (above) and Art Department Chair William Moses (below) for her recent show at the Gate House.




Campus Community Campaign volunteers and campaign organizers, whose work helped net \$126,000—with a 45-percent participation rate—for the October 16 to December 31 fundraising event, pose with President Jordan at a March 5 luncheon in the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center. From left, are: Dr. Robert "Skip" Williams, psychology professor and chair of the Campus Community Campaign; Beth Betman, Clerc Center social worker; Jeffrey Wolfe, admissions counselor and former development associate for annual giving; Dr. David Martin, professor of education; Michael Weinstock, Clerc Center athletic activities coordinator; Ulf Hedberg, archives director; Dr. Jordan; and Deborah DeStefano, admissions director. Those who were unable to attend were Jo Rackham, Tom Bull, Trina Schooley, Sandi LaRue-Atuonah, Dr. Pat Johanson, Jean Berube, and Kurt Schneidmiller.

as loading a wheelchair onto a bus; emergency evacuations; ensuring that the manual wheelchair lift works in the event that the electric lift malfunctions; seeing that the lugs holding the wheels in place are tight; and checking to be sure that emergency exits are functioning properly and all lights are working.

Placing near the top in the Road-eo was certainly gratifying to Campbell and Curtis, but it carries more far-reaching benefits. Their finely-tuned skills "contribute to the safety of the commuting children we transport, as well as the faculty, staff, and students we transport daily on charter trips and on the shuttle bus," said Nicholson. And safety is the byword of the Transportation Department, which maintains a


fleet of 86 vehicles and has a staff of 16 drivers and 11 bus monitors, some of whom traverse long routes each morning and evening. Campbell, for example, picks up and delivers children as far north as Gaithersburg, and Curtis's route takes him east to Route 197 in Bowie.

This is the fourth year that the Pupil Transportation Safety Institute has sponsored the rodeo, and the second year that Gallaudet has entered the competition. Last year, Gallaudet was recognized for netting the highest score of all first time participants, which translated into 14th place out of 22 entries. Next year, Gallaudet will be back, and no one will be surprised if its drivers walk away with firstplace honors. 

## Kappa Delta Pi

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most challenging topic, given the spreading diversity in many schools across the nation. Panelists included Francisca Rangel, ASL, deaf culture, multicultural specialist for the Clerc Center; Kelly Crain, a faculty member for Fairfax County, Va., schools and a current Ph.D. student in education; and Jan Nishimura, a professional interpreter. Different perspectives on how to meet diverse student needs were presented.

Anyone with questions about the honor society in education is welcome to contact Martin: david.martin@gallaudet.edu e-mail. 

If your department is receiving too few or too many copies of *On the Green*, please let us know.

Call Roz Prickett at x5788 (v/tty) or email roz.prickett@gallaudet.edu

### Check out 'On the Green's' Web version

Many of the articles and photographs that appear in each week's issue of *On the Green* can also be read in *On the Green's* Web version, the online version of Gallaudet's faculty/staff newsletter. *On the Green's* Web version can be accessed through the University's homepage.



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Transportation Department Manager Darnese Nicholson (left) and Supervisor Gary Wormley (right) are pictured with drivers Jacqueline Campbell and Lawrence Curtis, whose skills behind the wheel earned them a fourth place victory at the National Special Needs Team Safety Road-eo, held March 3 in Phoenix, Ariz.





## ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie:

During the tragic ordeal of the murders of Eric Plunkett and Ben Varner, the Gallaudet community experienced tremendous confusion, pain, shock, and fear. At the same time, the Gallaudet community did everything it could to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff. This was not an easy task, so thanks must be given to the community members for their contributions.

Many of those who made these kind gestures are people we may tend to overlook. We have had people from different departments give their time to ensure the safety of the students, for example: Physical Plant Department, Provost's Office, Department of Safety and Security, Public Relations, President's Office, Campus Life, including coordinators of residence education and resident advisors, Food Services, Mental Health Center, MSSD staff and faculty, students, and many others.

Many departments and people volunteered their time to walk the halls of the dorms. They took the time outside their

regular work hours—and away from their families—to attend to the needs of their other family—Gallaudet. Many were able to comfort and give mental, emotional, and physical support to the students. These volunteers definitely made a difference within the community. It offered the Gallaudet community the sense of unity at a time when we so needed it.

While many on campus were going beyond the call of duty to assist during this crisis, Gallaudet also was able to witness kindness from people who were from the outside community. Howard University and Marymount College's students, faculty, and staff signed cards and banners to show their support. Alumni and parents sent e-mails to express their support to the Gallaudet community. The outpouring of community unity, support, and compassion was amazing.

These acts of kindness don't happen often enough and it is almost sad that it takes a tragedy before we see the warm and giving sides of each other. We all are guilty of taking things for granted and not recognizing our blessings. When things have settled down, and we can begin to plan for the future once again, we should remind ourselves that simple acts of kindness can make a difference in people's lives. We should smile, say 'Hi,' or lend a helping hand to those who

need it. We should never forget this tragedy that we have just experienced, and we should never forget how precious each and every one of us is, and that it took the tragic deaths of two of our own to remind us of our acts of kindness.

Angie Geffen,  
undergraduate student

Dear Angie:

Well said, my dear.



## DWII Fact

The April 15 deadline for responding to the Call for Proposals for DWII is fast approaching. Information can be found on the DWII website at [www.deafway.org/proposals/](http://www.deafway.org/proposals/). You also can pick up a copy of the form from the DWII office, located on the third floor of GUKCC, or from the Office of Public Relations in EMG. Or, you can request that a form be sent to you by e-mailing [info@deafway.org](mailto:info@deafway.org) or by calling x6112 (TTY).

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

## Applications, nominations sought for Schaefer Professorship

The Gallaudet Research Institute is soliciting applications and nominations for the Schaefer Professorship for 2001-2002. This professorship is funded by an endowment made possible by a bequest from William H. and Ruth Crane Schaefer. Faculty and staff members who have a strong record of scholarly productivity are eligible. The award makes available approximately \$15,000 to the selected individual's department or unit to pursue scholarly goals. The selection will be announced at commencement. The deadline for receiving nominations for the coming year is April 3. Address applications, nominations, or questions to Dr. Michael Karchmer, HMB S-439. A full description of the Schaefer program can be found at: <http://gri.gallaudet.edu/funding/schaefer.html>

## Applications sought for Hlibok Playwriting Competition

The Theatre Arts Department is accepting applications for the Bruce Hlibok Playwriting Competition. The purpose of this competition is to encourage aspiring deaf and hard of hearing writers to develop original plays for the stage. The competition, which is open to any deaf or hard of hearing undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at Gallaudet, is accepting one-act and full-length plays written for the stage. The winner will receive a monetary award and recognition on campus, and the winner must perform a public staged reading of the play the following academic year, if resources are available. Deadline for submissions is April 2. For more information, contact Willy Conley at x5501 (TTY/Voice), or x5502, x5503 (TTY).

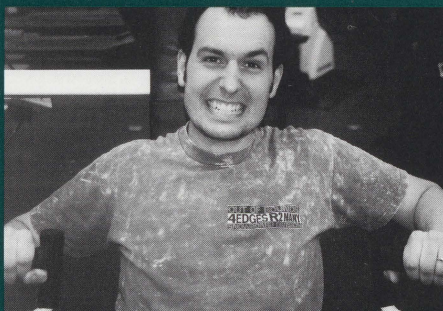
## ROVING REPORTER

What is your favorite lunchtime activity and why?



Rosa Mann, transfer specialist, Office of Admissions

*Volleyball is my favorite lunchtime activity because it energizes me for the rest of the day. It also allows me to interact with students, faculty, and other staff I would not normally meet while on the job.*



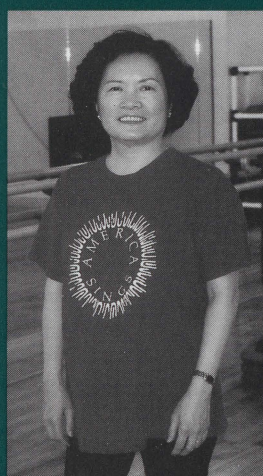
Dan Mathis, research technician, EPAR, SOL Project:

*Working out. I think it helps me to keep in shape and I feel great when I do it regularly.*



Cario Siegel, senior, Illinois:

*Volleyball at noon in the Field House. I need it or I'll go crazy from too much work and not enough play. Besides, it's fun!*



Ying Yu, coordinator of serials, Library:

*Aerobics class in the Dance Studio. After sitting in front of my computer all morning, I need a break! In aerobics class I get to meet other staff members. We exercise together and have fun! After we are done, I feel refreshed and healthier.*



Johnston Grindstaff, assistant professor of Television, Photography, and Digital Media, and Facundo Montenegro, acting chair of the department, talk with students about "Students' Photographic Eyes," a photo exhibition and open house held March 1 in the Merrill Learning Center Photography Gallery. A total of 46 photographs by 26 students were displayed. Pictured (from left) are: Meghana Cleary, Grindstaff, Elina Nemerova, Hoon Jeong, Montenegro, Travis Imel, and Rebecca Hellquist.

## NOTES FROM PERSONNEL

## Service awards for February

## Five years:

**Robert Crowe**, supervisor, Grounds Services

## Ten years:

**Senoa Goehring**, teacher, Clerc Center

## Fifteen years:

**Maria Danso-Irizarry**, secretary III, Physical Education and Recreation

## Twenty years:

**Barbara Fields**, math teacher/researcher, Clerc Center; **Maxine Harewood**, purchasing agent, Contracts and Purchasing

## Thirty years:

**Reginald King**, teacher/researcher, Clerc Center

## New employees hired in February

**Kitty Bottoms**, residential night assistant, Clerc Center;

**Josephine Perez**, residential night assistant, Clerc Center;

**Christy Snipes**, teacher, Child Development Center; **Clarence**

**Coakley**, campus security officer, Safety and Security; **Harold**

**Berretto, Sr.**, user support technician, User Services; **Franchise**

**Ebendeng**, custodian, Custodial Services





## CLERC CENTER HAPPENINGS

### MSSD athletic scholar honored

By Susan M. Flanigan

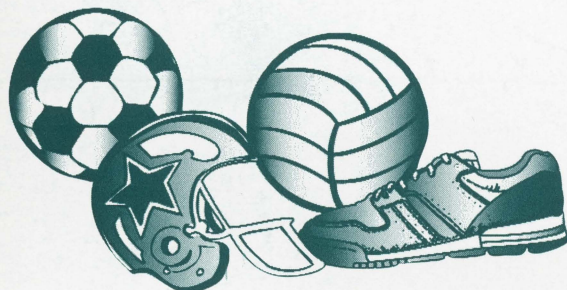
The Women's Sports Foundation recently recognized Bellamie Bachleda, a senior at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD), for her athletic and academic achievements.

Bachleda was one of 23 female athletes honored in the District of Columbia at a ceremony held at Trinity College in Northeast Washington. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the observance of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, which was established in 1987 by a Congressional resolution. It is celebrated in all 50 states with community-based events, award ceremonies, and other activities.

Bachleda's athletic prowess extends from volleyball to softball to basketball. "Bellamie is one of

our hardest workers. She always strives for the best," said Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center Athletic Director Michael Weinstock. "I wish we could have 100 Bellamies here." Her records for volleyball have been particularly noteworthy. She has been a key member in MSSD's three consecutive deaf national championship volleyball teams. Next year, Bachleda hopes to play volleyball for Gallaudet.

In the classroom, Bachleda maintains at 3.4 grade average. She was a member of MSSD's Academic Bowl team, which recently won this year's Mid-Atlantic Region High School Bowl held in Frederick, Md., and a member of last year's national championship team. In 1999, she placed second in the Miss Deaf Teen pageant. 



## Sports Roundup

By David Tossman

### Baseball

Co-head coaches Kris Gould and Jeff Salit are optimistic about this year's season, with a team that includes several returning key players and an outstanding freshman class. According to Gould, "We look to improve on last year's record [2-21], with improvement in all areas of the game, especially pitching," which was a sore spot last year.

There is a wealth of players who will be able to pitch this year, including upperclassmen Chad Karnowski and Joey Kolkun, Jr. and freshmen Scott Waldorf and Curtis Christopherson. Daniel Patterson returns for his senior year after sitting out last year. Karnowski and Kolkun will also play in the infield and Waldorf and Christopherson can double as catcher.

"All of our players are important and if we play as a team and stick together we should have a successful season," said Gould.

The men got their first win of the season in an exciting game against Christendom College on March 11. The men were down 1-0 going into the bottom half of the seventh inning when Nick Vita and Joey Kolkun got on base with one out. A successful double steal

by both put them on second and third base. Then, a suicide bunt by Sean Moore scored Vita and brought Kolkun to third base. Another suicide bunt, this time by Pat O'Doherty, brought Kolkun home for the winning run and the first Bison victory of the year.

Christopherson pitched a fantastic game, going all seven innings and allowing just one run in the victory.

### Track

This will be Tiffany Granfors' first year at the helm as coach, and she should provide exceptional leadership to a team that will have the opportunity to practice on the new track. Granfors starred on both the track and cross-country teams in the late 1980's, and has been a Deaf Olympics medalist. Carlos Stennett, the top deaf American sprinter, returns.

### Softball

Head Coach Sarah Doleac returns for her 18th season as women's softball coach, and her second season on the new field. Coming off a 14-13 season, Doleac has high hopes for this year's squad. Key players this year will be Kari Richards and



## WHAT'S HAPPENING... AND WHEN

### March:

23-Open House for prospective students, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Office of Admissions. For more information, contact Patty Shaffner, x5383.

25-Baseball vs. York College, 1 p.m.

27-Diversity Day (No Classes)

28-Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A meeting, Holy Name Church, 920 11th St., NE, 7-9 p.m. City Council member Sharon Ambrose will be present.

28-Baseball vs. Catholic University, 3 p.m.

28-29-"Adobe Pagemaker: Mastering the Basics" workshop. Learn new technology that will help you place photographs, use text, and enhance layout designs, allowing you to perform desktop publishing tasks faster, more efficiently, and with more creative freedom; \$295. To register, e-mail marylou.novitsky@gallaudet.edu, or call x8-6068 (TTY) or x8-6060 (TTY/Voice).

28-30-VR Conference for VR Counselors to meet their students, see Gallaudet, and hear from key people in the U.S. Department of Education, and from Gallaudet., Visitor's Center Lobby/GUKCC. For more information, contact Darlene Prickett, x5050.

29-"Introduction to Supervision" workshop. Learn how to acquire the tools you need to select appropriate management strategies, coach employees, and manage your time/priorities. Learn the basics of being a supervisor, transition tips, common mistakes and solutions, issues for deaf and hard of hearing supervisors, and taking care of yourself. Other supervisory skills covered are delegation, motivation, giving feedback, networking, and communication; \$195. To register, e-mail marylou.novitsky@gallaudet.edu, or call x8-6068 (TTY) or x8-6060 (TTY/Voice).

30-"Enhancing Your Supervisory Skills" workshop. Learn skills that will help you to manage staff more effectively, reduce turnover, and improve morale, while accomplishing the company's mission. Identify your strengths and weaknesses, and develop a plan of action for improving your supervisory skills. Topics include leadership skills, communication skills, motivation, performance appraisal, and goal setting for improvement; \$195. To register, e-mail marylou.novitsky@gallaudet.edu, or call x8-6068 (TTY) or x8-6060 (TTY/Voice).

30-Baseball vs. Columbia Union College (two games), 3 p.m.

30-31-*Lysistrata*, presented by Gallaudet's Theatre Arts Department, Elstad Auditorium, 8 p.m. E-mail joanne.rackham@gallaudet.edu or call x5502 (TTY), x5500 (Voice).

31-Softball vs. York, 1 p.m.

### April

First two weeks of April: multicultural family photography exhibit "In Our Family," GUKCC. Portraits of all kinds of families, such as multiracial, gay, lesbian, and bisexual people and their families will be featured. Sponsored by the Office for Diversity and Community Relations.

1-Softball vs. Chestnut Hill, 12 p.m.

1-*Lysistrata*, presented by Gallaudet's Theatre Arts Department, Elstad Auditorium, 2 p.m. E-mail joanne.rackham@gallaudet.edu, or call x5502 (TTY), x5500 (Voice).

3-Baseball vs. Valley Forge (two games), 1 p.m.

4-"Take Back The Night" informational presentation, Ely Auditorium, 7-9 p.m. Gallaudet students and staff will come together to address sexual assault and rape prevention through dramatic vignettes. Campus representatives and local support agencies will provide preventive information, brochures, and answer questions. Sponsored by Multicultural Student Programs.

6-Open House for Prospective Students, Admissions Office, Chapel Hall. Itinerary includes a class observation, campus tour, student panel, student/parent connections, lunch with faculty and students, more, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, contact Patty Shaffner, x5383;

6-Third Annual Multicultural Festival, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. location TBA. Sponsored by the Office for Diversity and Community Relations and Multicultural Student Programs.

6-Signing Gospel, 6:30-9 p.m., Ely Auditorium, signed praise songs to celebrate the Easter season. Sponsored by Multicultural Student Programs.


6-7-*Lysistrata*, presented by Gallaudet's Theatre Arts Department, Elstad Auditorium, 8 p.m. E-mail joanne.rackham@gallaudet.edu, or call x5502 (TTY), x5500 (Voice).

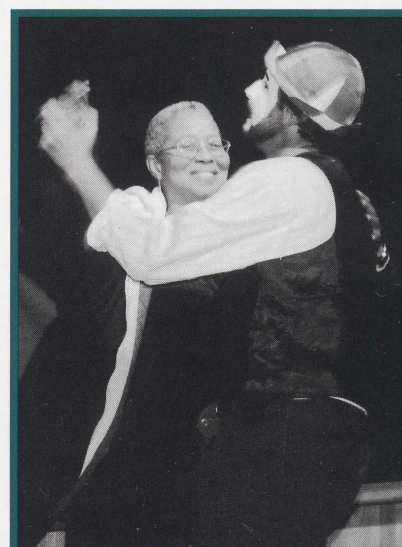
Katie Spiegel. On March 8, the women won a doubleheader over Hood College, 15-0 and 8-0.

### Women's Basketball

Senior guard Touria Ouahid, who led the Capital Athletic Conference in scoring, assists, and steals was named Conference Player of the Year. This also was the third time in her career that Ouahid was named to the All-Conference team.

### Men's Basketball

Sophomore guard Jeremias Valencia was named to the Capital Athletic Conference second team. 



Multicultural Student Programs and the Office of Diversity and Community Relations.

Mime, actor, and puppeteer Fernando Thiel dances with Eve Mitton, records/benefits assistant in the Personnel Office, during a performance in the Ely Center Auditorium on February 23. Thiel has worked in children's television in Argentina, where he was born, and Costa Rica, where he currently lives. In 1985, he won the National Prize for Best Children's Actor in Argentina; and five years later, UNICEF awarded him the prize for Best Children's Actor in Lima, Peru. Thiel performs with the group "Tico Titeres," which won the 1993 prize for Best Children's Production in Costa Rica. The event was sponsored by the Office of